


LANDSCAPING GUIDE



The Bennett Valley Heights (BVH) residential development plan was approved by the City of Santa Rosa as a development to create deluxe single family homes with architectural controls to insure protection of the natural vegetation. The controls are spelled out in the HOA Architectural Guidelines. These guidelines require landscape designs to blend with the existing oak woodland environment and to maximize the use of native plant materials. Our CC&Rs spell out the process to have your landscape plan approved. The information found below offers suggestions to homeowners to assist in the creation of landscapes that will enhance this vision.

Why Native Plants?

The Architectural Control Guidelines state that generally plantings should be from the native families of plant species and must at all times be native or compatible species. Here are some good reasons for choosing native plants.

Cost, Care, and Maintenance - Native plants typically are more cost-effective over time. Because they are better adapted to local soil, moisture, and climate conditions, they require less water and fertilizer, are more resistant to local pests and diseases, and have lower maintenance requirements. Once established, several species require little or no irrigation at all.



Benefits for Wildlife - Native plants provide habitat for local wildlife as well as those that migrate regionally, nationally, or even internationally. Native plants provide food and shelter for birds,

animals, and insects. Pollinators such as hummingbirds, butterflies, and honeybees benefit, in turn benefitting us: animal pollinators are necessary to the reproduction of 90 percent of flowering plants and one third of human food crops. And the wildlife attracted to your yard can be fun to watch. Chickadees, lesser goldfinches, and towhees are often seen in the neighborhood, as is our state bird, the California quail.



Dwarf coyote bush. Deer resistant with small fragrant flowers heavily visited by insects including honeybees and the California buckeye butterfly (shown here).

Appearance - Native plants tend to grow looking naturally beautiful with little design work or maintenance on your part. This is because those plants belong there, and thus to our eyes just seem to fit in.

A good first step in considering options for landscape plantings in your yard is to determine which native plants would be suited to the sun exposure, moisture, and soil types present in the microclimates found in your yard. Other important considerations include whether the plant is deer resistant and drought tolerant. Plants listed in this Guide were selected to be compatible with all provisions of the CC&Rs and Architectural Guidelines and will be approved by the BVH HOA Architectural Control Committee. Your landscape plan must be approved prior to implementation. To help with that, Review forms are available at the HOA's website. If you are working with a landscape professional, make sure that they carefully review the information found here

that they carefully review the information found here and other applicable BVH HOA guidance before starting to prepare a landscape plan.



Heteromeles arbutifolia (Toyon) attracts a variety of birds including cedar waxwings, quail, and Western bluebirds.

Additional key considerations:

The Plant List should provide botanical and common names of plants, quantities, container sizes, and anticipated plant height/width at maturity. A plan view scale drawing with north arrow showing the placement and expected "footprint" (area of ground coverage) of each plant relative to existing plants and built features of the property should also be submitted. To ensure a natural appearance, plants should not be arranged in rows or geometric patterns.

It is important to know the expected size of each plant at maturity and the size of plants (e.g., 1 to 5-gallon sizes for shrubs) necessary to achieve the goal of providing appropriate ground coverage/plant density within two growing seasons. To protect soil health, prevent erosion, and blend with the natural environment, total vegetative cover, except for necessary walkways, is the desired state.

It is also very important that the selected plants and irrigation systems be compatible with any existing native oak trees. To protect these valuable natural assets, be sure to review the information found at:

<http://www.californiaoaks.org/ExtAssets/CareOfCAsNativeOaks.pdf>.

Mulch - Forest mulch is satisfactory to encourage plant growth, but wood chips and mulch are generally not acceptable as a permanent ground cover. Be sure to specify in your landscape proposal which mulch is intended for use. Certain mulches are not suitable due to fire danger (e.g., shredded cedar or redwood bark, also known as Gorilla hair, which ignites easily). Other non-suitable mulches are those which have been colored with added dyes. Large, non-uniform size angular mulches are best for preventing erosion, especially on slopes. Ordinary arbor mulch (like on



Gorilla hair mulch ignites easily



our Summerfield frontage) does well on slopes, is usually the least expensive, and blends well with our oak woodland environment. Make sure your supplier has "cooked" the mulch for a period of time to kill any weed seeds that may be present. For information on how much and what type to use, see the mulch guides available in English and Spanish at:

http://www.bayfriendlycoalition.org/download/Mulch_Guide%20low%20rez.pdf.

http://www.bayfriendlycoalition.org/download/Spanish%20Mulch_Guide%20lowrez.pdf

If you are considering planting, pruning or removing trees, please see tree information on BVH HOA's website (www.bvhhoa.com).

To assist you and your landscape professional in selecting appropriate plant material, following are lists of plants which may not be planted, as well as some which have been found to be particularly well-suited to neighborhood conditions and meet architectural controls.

Plants which *must not* be planted include any kind of Broom, Acacia, Eucalyptus, Bamboo, Euphorbia, Periwinkle (Vinca), Cotoneaster, or Cape, German, or English ivy (Delairea odorata and Hedera helix or canariensis) and:

- Pampas grass (Cortaderia selloana)
- Jubata grass (Cortaderia jubata)
- Mexican feather grass (Nassella tenuissima)
- Chilean needle grass (Nassella neesiana)

These non-native plants are invasive, many are considered a fire hazard, and none fit the vision of our development.

Plants which may be suitable for your landscape include:

Ground Covers

Arctostaphylos 'Emerald Carpet' (Manzanita)
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi 'Green Supreme' (Manzanita)
Baccharis pilularis 'Twin Peaks' (Dwarf Coyote Brush)
Berberis nervosa (Longleaf mahonia)
Epilobium californica (California Fuchsia)
Fragaria californica (Woodland Strawberry)
Heuchera (Alum Root)
Mahonia repens (Creeping Mahonia)
Polygala californica (Milkwort)
Satureja douglasii (Yerba Buena)

Other Perennials

Asclepias speciosa (Showy butterflyweed)
Iris douglasiana
Juncus (Rush)
Penstemon heterophyllus X 'Margarita BOP'
Salvia spathacea (Hummingbird sage)

Shrubs

Arctostaphylos conescens var. sonomensis (Sonoma Manzanita)
Arctostaphylos glandulosa (Eastwood Manzanita)
Calycanthus occidentalis (Spice Bush)
Carpenteria (Bush Anemone)
Ceanothus gloriosus
Cercis occidentalis (Western Redbud)
Heteromeles arbutifolia (Toyon)
Holodiscus discolor (Creambush)
Lonicera hispidula (California Honeysuckle)

Mahonia pinnata (California Holly Grape)
Mimulus aurantiacus (Sticky Monkey Flower)
Myrica californica (Wax Myrtle)
Pinus contorta (Spaan's Dwarf Shore Pine)
Rhamnus californica (Coffeeberry)
Rhododendron occidentale (Western Azalea)
Ribes (Currants & Gooseberries)
Rosa Californica (California Rose)
Salvia clevelandii
Smilacina racemosa (False Solomon's Seal)
Symphoricarpos albus (Snowberry)

Ferns & Grasses

Carex (Sedge)
Muhlenbergia regina (Deer Grass)
Pentagramma triangularis (Goldback Fern)
Polystichum munitum (Sword Fern)
Woodwardia fimbriata (Giant chain fern)

Non-native plants

There are many plants in our development that are not native plants. While native plants are usually the better choice, non-native plants that are generally acceptable for inclusion with native plantings include Rosemary, Lavender, Fortnight Lily, Myoporum parvifolium 'Prostratum,' Rubus calycinoides 'Emerald Carpet,' and Freeway Daisy (Osteospermum fruticosum).

Helpful websites for identifying appropriate native plants and pertinent information about growing them include:

Sonoma County Master Gardeners California Natives
http://ucanr.edu/sites/scmg/California_Natives/
California Native Plant Society
<http://www.cnps.org/cnps/grownative/>

And a plant finder site from a local native plant nursery:
<http://www.calfloranursery.com/find-right-plant>



Easy care, evergreen, drought tolerant low growing manzanitas such as Emerald Carpet and Green Supreme blend beautifully with other landscaping while providing erosion and weed control and wildlife habitat.